

Appl. No. 10/781,613
Docket No. CM2603CQ
Amdt. dated September 26, 2007
Reply to Office Action mailed on June 29, 2007
Customer No. 27752

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REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due. Claims 1, 9, 10, 11, and 12 have been amended. Claims 9, 11, and 12 have been amended to correct dependencies. Support for the amendments to Claims 1 and 10 can be found at least on page 14 lines 2-4 of the originally filed specification. It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over King

Claims 1-12 have been rejected have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by King, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,595,567 (hereinafter "King"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as King does not teach a loop member for mechanical fastening having pattern elements that are at least partially bounded by a non-circular, non-linear segment of one of the bond lines, wherein said pattern includes at least 3.2 pattern elements per square centimeter.

While King discloses that bonding patterns suitable for a loop fastening material can include straight or curved lines, King does not disclose bond lines that are intersecting and curved, as claimed in the present invention. The definition given in Column 8, lines 17-25 of King teach that the bond lines define "nonwoven web bonding pattern elements." This term refers to specific geometrical elements. The only geometrical elements disclosed in King defined by curved lines are circles, ovals and ellipses, all of which do not have intersecting lines. King only discloses non-intersecting curved bond lines; King does not disclose intersecting curved bond lines. In contrast, amended Claim 1 cannot define circular pattern elements. King does not teach intersecting, curved bond lines as claimed in the present invention.

Further, King does not teach patterns having at least 3.2 pattern elements per square centimeter, as defined and claimed in the present invention. Rather, King teaches patterns having sides that measure between about 1.3cm and 0.3cm. King makes no mention of a pattern of intersecting bond lines defining unbonded pattern elements, each of the pattern

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elements being at least partially bounded by a non-circular, non-linear segment of one of the bond lines, wherein the pattern includes at least 3.2 pattern elements per square centimeter.

As described on page 14, lines 5-17 of the specification, non-woven webs having 3.2 pattern elements per square centimeter have been found to produce excellent reliability when used as a loop fastener with hooks. It is believed that increased reliability is achieved because by introducing bond lines having non-circular, non-linear segments, each pattern element has associated therewith more anchored fibers without a proportional increase in the percentage of overall bonded area. King does not teach a loop member for mechanical fastening having a pattern of intersection bond lines, wherein said pattern includes at least 3.2 pattern elements per square centimeter. The Office Action incorrectly concludes that the claimed pattern elements of the present invention are the same as the extrapolation of the pattern side measurements of the King invention.

The present invention is directed to a loop member for a mechanical fastener that provides the loop member with increased fastening reliability of the loops without a proportional decrease in the amount of loops available for fastening, i.e. the amount of loops available for hook engagement. As demonstrated in Table 1 and Figure 8 in the instant specification, fastening reliability can be increased by increasing the amount of contour without a proportional decrease in the amount of loops available for fastening. The amount of contour (which is a measure of the number of anchored fibers increasing the fastening reliability) rises at a faster rate as the amount of overall bond area (which is a measure of totally bonded fibers, unavailable for hook engagement). The slope of the broken line (contour) of Figure 8 is steeper than the slope of the solid line (total bond area).

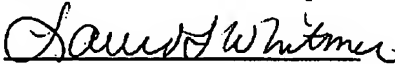
Applicants contend that the King reference does not anticipate Applicants' Claims 1-12, as the King patent does not teach pattern elements as claimed in the present invention. Therefore, Applicants contend that the present invention is novel in view of King and that the rejection should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the issues raised by the Office Action has been addressed. Reconsideration and allowance of each of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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